

# LEPC Responsibilities

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# LEPC: It's the right thing to do

- The number one responsibility is to help your community be prepared
  - L is for Liaison or link between industry, government, and citizens
  - E is for educate
  - P is for preparedness and planning
  - C is for Communication



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# Establish Relationships

- Positive spin
- Facilities, Government and public
  - What is an LEPC and how can you help the facility (what do they expect from responders/ vice versa)? How can they help you?
  - How can your community prepare for worst case?
  - Joint exercise, tours, joint training, etc.



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# Manage the LEPC

- Maintain, at a minimum, federally required membership;
  - Not just county employees; citizens, and facility owners too.
  - Consider adding others: school district, legal advisors, farmers, planning and zoning, etc.
- By laws/ rules to function by



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# Manage the LEPC

- Ensure county conducts training and exercises to test the LEOP
- Publish Annual public notice of Right-to-Know
  - print, website/ social media
- Compliance Certification
  - CEPR requirement
  - Checklist of everything your LEPC ***must*** do.



# Facility Reports

- SDS reports
  - If a facility is required by OSHA to maintain SDSs and inventory exceeds the TPQ, the facility must provide at least a list of the chemicals or the SDS.
- Tier II reports (inventory reporting)
  - KS requires Tier II form even if federal law requires only Tier I
- Toxic Chemical Release Reports (TRI) to EPA



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# Gather Information

- Request information from facilities
  - If a citizen requests and LEPC does not have it
  - If there is a legitimate concern
  - If a facility has an OSHA HAZCOM program they have to make information available.
  - Under EPCRA, Local FD can tour the facility/ inspect for planning purposes only (no actions outside of EPCRA allowed)



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# Gather Information

- Studies/ research/ legal
- Request information from the County
  - First responder training/ equipment
  - Public works/ streets Dept. resources
  - Other resources
- Other local agencies
  - School district
  - Construction, rental companies





# What To Do With Information?

- Establish relationship with the designated contact.
  - verify information on forms is correct
  - Joint review of plans
- Share!
  - Grant public access to this information within 45 days of request



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# Planning

- Review HAZMAT portion of county emergency plan at least annually
  - Local resources
  - New laws/ legal documents, etc.
  - Apply lessons learned
  - New construction (facility, residences, schools etc.)
  - Evaluate changes on reports/ inventories/ SDS's submitted



# Review Responses

- Review incidents (in the county or elsewhere)
  - Did the LEPC receive prompt notice of incidents?
  - Did the LEOP work? Can it be improved?
  - Did responders and facility personnel/ owners work together to resolve the situation?
  - Has the public or media raised any concerns over how things went?



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# Legal Action?

- Try to settle it amicably without the courts.
- Take/ participate in legal action.
  - Settlements for EPA actions may result in benefits to the community
  - Under P.L. 99-499 Sec. 326, citizens may bring suit against facilities, EPA, Governor, and CEPR/ SERC; EPA, SERC and LEPC may file suit against a facility
  - K.S.A. 65-5708 covers EPCRA specific legal action in KS.



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# Why Outreach?

- Do citizens really read that one paragraph notice published once a year? Does your community know what an LEPC is or what information they can obtain from it?
- Preparedness isn't sexy or fun.
- Time and again incidents happen and citizens are unprepared



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# Benefits of Outreach

- Foster relations between industry, government, and citizens
- Creates an informed, prepared community
- Potential new members
- Engages LEPC members:
  - Gives them a chance to use talents and skills
  - Gives responsibility and ownership of something
  - Break out of boring meetings and have some fun



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# What kind of outreach?

- Be creative
- Doesn't have to be expensive
- Request free pamphlets/ handbooks from EPA, FEMA, NIH, etc. to handout
- Donated supplies/ sponsors
- Capitalize on members talents/ expertise
- Fun/ trendy approach



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# Opportunities

- Invite groups/ facility reps/ citizens to meetings
- Speaking engagements
  - Senior groups, boy/ girl scouts, schools, civic groups, etc.
- Community events
  - Booth at the county fair, community days, etc.



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# Opportunities

- Have a coloring/ art/ slogan contest
- Invite groups to play parts in exercises (boy/ girl scouts, senior groups, drama club, Journalism club/ class, etc.)
- Preparedness (zombie/ alien/ sharknado/ other trend) or Touch a Vehicle Day
  - All you need is space and approval



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# Opportunities

- Flyers/ handbooks/ pamphlets
  - Mailed with utility bills; businesses/ government agencies/health care providers, etc. display or hand out
- School preparedness days/ programs
  - Invite a class to a meeting
  - Class/ group participate in an exercise
  - Booth at a science fair/ career day/ other events



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# Questions??



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